

**Amendments to the Specification:**

**Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:**

-- The optical connector according to the present invention may be a ferrule for optical communication or a fiber array for optical communication. In the array for optical communication according to the present invention, as compared with the conventional array which requires the use of a substrate with V-shaped grooves and a press plate, the necessary number of components can be reduced and, in addition, the array can be produced in a simpler and ~~lower-cost~~ lower-cost manner. --

Appl. No. 10/521,953  
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-- The optical connector according to the present invention may be a ferrule for optical communication or a fiber array for optical communication. In the array for optical communication according to the present invention, as compared with the conventional array which requires the use of a substrate with V-shaped grooves and a press plate, the necessary number of components can be reduced and, in addition, the array can be produced in a simpler and ~~lower-cost~~ lower-cost manner. --